

## **TUESDAYS TOPICS**

### **WELCOME AND SWCC UPDATES – Dugger Hughes**

Dugger greeted the attendees. The steering committee was introduced followed by introduction of the Zones and represented Dispatchers.

Dugger then spoke for a few minutes on professionalism. It is necessary that we perform our tasks, on a daily basis, with professionalism. It is important to always remember that our jobs are stressful and require a great deal of self-discipline and we must be mindful of how important it is that we take care of ourselves during a busy fire season. Measures that we can employ to that end include; eating right, getting some daily exercise, listen to our co-workers and to the input from our families. Often it is these people, with whom we interface, that will first see the indications that we need to take a break. Finally, do not be hesitant to call in reinforcements.

#### **Three Tier Dispatch**

Dugger gave a brief discussion regarding 3-tier dispatching. The third committee to study this matter has been formed. This new plan will omit the forth tier in Dispatch. There will be some new terminology used for 2006. We will be using Fire Management Zones and Dispatch Centers. Central West Zone is the first Zone to utilize the new system.

#### **Problem Solving on the Job**

We are encouraged, when needing assistance, to remember to contact the correct person. SWCC assignments for this year include; Frank on Crew Desk, Firecode questions go to Dugger, AFF problems -Larry Hindman, Web problems – Jay Ellington and weather questions - Chuck Maxwell. ROSS problems must be solved with the ROSS help desk; IQCS needs are to be handled by the help desk and computer problems are to be sent to EUSC.

#### **Computer Issues**

One IT person will be assigned to each GACC. Four computer kits will be available at the GACC for use in Expandeds. These kits include; 10 laptops, 2 printers, they hook up to FS network and there will be a new, all risk ID for EUSC.

#### **MOU's**

It is imperative that each Dispatch shop updates their MOU's early in the season. Establish new routes where needed and make sure that all personnel are aware of them before fire season is upon us.

#### **COOP**

Continuity of Ops plans is an imperative. SWCC will have a cable modem hookup for emergencies.

### **Air Craft Co-ordination**

There were many over flying issues in 2005. These were due in the greater part to a lack of, or poor communication. We must pay much closer attention to these issues in this fire season. Let's all remain aware of this problem.

### **Air Tankers**

9 will be in service by May 15 – with a total of 16 in service later in the summer.

### **Exclusive Use Helicopters**

1 in Prescott

1 in Albuquerque

Both will be in service early with severity monies.

### **SEATS**

16 will be in service this year– less than last year. They will be under the control of NMAC.

### **Commit messages**

Commit messages must be done. Also, each office must submit their A/C status report at the end of each day to SWCC. Both of these measures help to assure correct assessments of available aircraft.

### **ROSS**

Much more cooperation is needed to have zones or offices “beat the bushes” for requests. We must work together on this issue. Resources are often available, but it takes a moment to make a phone call. Let's all cooperate on this issue.

### **Communication**

We must stop relying on our computer to do all the communicating. Let's remember the value of follow up phone calls and courtesy calls. We are communicators!

### **NIMO**

National Incident Management Organization

- Two teams hired in 2006

- Evaluate NIMO annually to determine further increases in number of teams

- Staff the NIMO coordinator position at NICC

- These teams will be positioned in Boise and Atlanta. These teams are USDA sponsored.

### **Predictive Services**

It is believed that there is significant fire danger for fire season 2006.

Nighttime recovery will be a very important issue this summer. In preparation for fire season, each office should do the following in WIMS:

- Stations must be frozen

- Add “G” fuel model

Start Obs by 2-1-2006  
Set wet flag in WIMS  
Verify index breakpoints in WIMS

There is a new predictive page on the SCCC site. Look at it!

**Be ready for fire season 2006. Let's all make it a safe summer!**

### **NICC UPDATES – Emil Magallanes**

Emil introduced himself, and told us he had come up through the ranks – starting in the fire profession on an engine. He has seen this business from many perspectives. He understands each level of operation. He feels that NICC should be more 'customer service friendly'. He understands that usually those who are making requests know what they need. NICC needs to listen more carefully to our requests.

Major changes this year at NICC:

#### **Type I and II Team**

A short team will consist of 10 people

The long team has had 17 positions added and 17 more positions will be negotiable.

A maximum of 6 trainee positions will be allowed

There will be a maximum of 50 people on a long team.

#### **Name requests**

Name request must be highly specialized positions. The top four name requests most difficult to fill are for ATGS, IADP, EDSD and HEMG. When ordering with a name request, give as much information in documentation why you are requesting this specific person. The more information NICC receives, the better they can fill the request.

#### **Transportation issues**

One large transport will be available. A jet with 101 seats.

Air Tankers:

16 total will be available this year. There will be 7 P3's and 9 P2V's.

IR requests should be made on the Internet. Faxing only deteriorates the quality of the print. A login and password are required.

#### **Mobil Food Service**

See Mob Guide for new procedures.

## **Air Craft**

All Forest Service contracted ships will be fitted with AFF capability.

## **ROSS**

Standardization is needed for configuration on Crews, A/C and Equipment. A Desktop book will be forthcoming, per Kenan at SWCC regarding this matter.

There is a new category in ROSS this year – Telecommunication. This applies only to the 4000 series of items.

NIRSC system of kits

4390 Starter will have 4253UHF link.

11 boxes total

There is a deliver to/bill to address block in ROSS also.

## **INTEL UPDATE – Jay Ellington**

### **Statistics:**

AZ, by history has 3000+ fires per year. In 2005 there were 3900.

NM, by history has 1803 fires per year. In 2005 there were 1299.

On average, AZ has 52 large fires per year. In 2005 there were 121.

NM, on average, has 44 large fires per year. In 2005 there were 23.

In the Southwest area 4 incidents per year require a Type I Team.

### **Sit Report Changes**

1. NMAC – Protection and Ownership – new designators.
2. Daily stat only
3. A pop up screen will break down numbers in the daily stats.
4. Sit Report review on website.
5. Data Warehouse in 2007.

### **ICS 209 no updates for 2006**

Due by 1900 daily or no later than 2300

See Mob guide for more information

RTF format on SWCC website

Supplement to Smoke Management reporting in AZ/NM

### **SWCC Website**

The site is now standardized with the National site and with all the GACCS.

New pages;

ROSS report page

DDS

ACCESS

Can be placed on a shared drive  
Click/print  
This is a massive database – most used now by GACCs.  
Password protected pages  
Sit 300 aviation  
    ID sit300   pswrd sit300\_a  
Aviation frequencies  
    ID frequencies   pswrd sit300\_a  
ROSS reports  
    ID ddsswcc   pswrd swccdds\_01

## **Training Updates**

March – INTS

Introduction to Sit Report and products

This course is now approved in IQCS. March 2007 will be the next course.

INTL -Intel Lead position under development

## **FIRE INCIDENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT - Louise Larson**

Managing Fire Records in support of Federal Fire Policy.

Packet was distributed.

“Organize and preserve fire records” should be our bywords.

Keep fire records for the following reasons:

- What challenges did we face with this incident?
- How did we respond?
- What were the results of this action?
- How do we learn about fire management?

Fire policies need changing regarding the storing and management of record keeping. Interagency collaboration is needed for information regarding histories of incidents and ecological impact records. We need to standardize a method of record keeping.

The public inquiry into incidents requires documentation to back up decisions made. NARA (National Archives) holds old records. Prior to new regulations, a 10-year retention policy was the rule.

The IMT must keep concise records of incidents. Those records must be kept with the ongoing incident – even through the transfer of authority from one IMT

to another. Kits are available for this task and include files, labels, directions and containers in which the records may safely be kept. When the final report on the Incident is completed, the records will be given to Dispatch for keeping.

The loss of good records will result in a lack of good planning decisions, fire history research, operational decisions and situational awareness.

**New record keeping schedule:**

For Incident and WFU

Permanent Incidents of record

Retain in office for 3 years- then send to NARA for 17 years – then archive them.

Temporary material – non-essential records;

Retain in office for 7 years – then destroy.

Non-record items – needed for administrative purposes

Retain in office for 3 years – store for 4 then destroy.

A new IMT Directory Structure is being proposed for wildland fire incident record keeping. IMT will organize records for perpetuity.

More information on this subject is available on line at [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov)

**SOUTHWEST AREA CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION - Donna Holtz**

Donna states her organization wishes to meet all our standards for contracted personnel. She feels more communication is required. She also stresses that standardization of positions and equipment, throughout all agencies, would be helpful.

**BRIAN LEE MEMORIAL**

Mrs. Brian Lee was presented with a white fir tree seedling and a certificate commemorating the purchase of two memorial bricks that were purchased in Brian Lee's memory. One will be placed in an area of her choice and the other will be placed at the Wildland Firefighter Foundation in Boise, ID. She expressed her gratitude for the support she has received over the last 6 months from the greater fire family. She received a standing ovation.